



THE STEEPLE

A Publication of St. Paul United Methodist Church
of Rosewood Heights, Illinois

JUNE 2014



“Since the children are made of flesh and blood, it’s logical that the Savior took on flesh and blood in order to rescue them by his death. By embracing death, taking it into himself, he destroyed the Devil’s hold on death and freed all who cower through life, scared to death of death. It’s obvious, of course, that he didn’t go to all this trouble for angels. It was for people like us, children of Abraham. That’s why he had to enter into every detail of human life. Then, when he came before God as high priest to get rid of the people’s sins, he would have already experienced it all himself—all the pain, all the testing—and would be able to help where help was needed.”

Hebrews 2:14-18 The Message

Our community has been shaken by the sudden death of some younger members as well as the deaths of those longtime members we have always counted upon being there. The cynics among us may question what difference Jesus’ coming into the world and dying for the world has made. Our loved ones still suffer and die. There is so much hatred. Evil seems to flourish stronger than ever.

Jesus did not take on flesh and blood so God might experience vicariously through Him what it means to be human. The Incarnation (God taking on a body) was no whim, but an integral part of God’s plan to steer creation back on course. That’s why Hebrews says: *God became a human being so that by embracing death, He might destroy the Devil’s hold on death and free all of us who are scared to death of death. The word “destroy” literally means “to render inoperative.” By dying upon the cross, Jesus rendered the power of the Devil inoperative.*

The Devil or however you envision the power of Evil no longer has power over us. Because of Jesus, we live as believers who are freed from the fear of death. Oh, we will still die and leave this earth but death has lost the power to decide our future. We are Jesus’ today and forever!

If we believe this...if we truly believe this, it changes the way that we live. We are no longer concerned with being successful in the eyes of the world, but only with being obedient in the eyes of Jesus. We are no longer focused upon achieving our own desires, but instead we are focused upon fulfilling God’s will for us.

There are times when life will beat us down. When we sing with heartfelt conviction: *“Nobody knows the trouble I’ve seen, nobody knows my sorrow.”* In times like these, we need to read these words from Hebrews again: *“It’s obvious, of course, that Jesus didn’t go to all this trouble [of becoming a human being] for angels. It was for people like us, children of Abraham. That’s why he had to enter into every detail of human life.”*

An old Native American proverb says that *we should never judge a man until we have walked a mile in his moccasins. Jesus did just that. He walked in our shoes. Whatever struggle you are going through at this moment, Jesus understands. More than this, Jesus is walking along side you.*

Jesus knows the sorrow you’ve hidden deep in your heart. He knows the frustration you feel. He knows the anger that wells up within you. He knows what it is that tempts you to slip, slide away from Him. Tony Campolo, one of my favorite Christian writers, uses this true story to reveal the meaning of the incarnation. In the 1996 Olympics, Derek Redmond, an American runner, was entered in the 400 meter race. For years and years, Redmond had practiced for this race with his father as his coach.

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During the qualifying heat, Redmond was far in front when his Achilles tendon snapped. He stopped running but did not drop out of the race. He pulled himself forward, dragging his injured leg behind him. The crowd stood and cheered the wounded runner on, but the pain was so great and the wound so serious that it was doubtful he could make it.

Suddenly, a middle-aged man jumped over the guardrail onto the track, caught up with Derek, put his arms around his waist, and helped him to the finish line. It was his coach, his father! When the race was over, Redmond told the press, *“He was the only one who could have helped me, because he was the only one who knew what I’d been through.”*

Campolo says that, in the same way, God comes to us in Jesus. God *“comes down alongside each of us to carry us the rest of the way. He is the only One who can, because He is the only One who understands what we’ve been through and what lies ahead.”*

Jesus came, not to help the angels, but to help people like you and me. Jesus knows the trouble we’ve seen. He knows the sorrow. More importantly, He knows the way back to the Father. Jesus leads us every step of the way.

In the Father’s presence we find clarity in the midst of our confusion. We find comfort in the midst of our sorrow. We find life in the midst of death. We find help when help is needed. Pastor Daryl

THANK YOU

→ *Thank yous are saved throughout the month and included in the next month’s newsletter.*

THANK YOU: I know you know my son, Spencer Bacus, and have followed his story. One year ago he was diagnosed with melanoma. He underwent 3 surgeries and spent most of last summer recovering – physically and emotionally. He decided to conquer his fears and take control of his body and has “buffed up” from 140 lbs. to 180 lbs. - ALL MUSCLE! He is an inspiration to many. After a really good check up with his dermatologist at the Siteman Cancer Center, his cancer team has asked Spencer to represent them by throwing out the first pitch at the Cardinal game on Saturday, May 31. It is Skin Cancer Awareness Day at the Ball-park. They will tell his story of survival and he is truly honored to be asked to participate. Just felt like sharing. **Thank you** for your prayers and support during the last year. St. Paul is an amazing family to be part of. I am very grateful! What a difference a year makes! **Debbie Bacus**





OUR CHURCH FAMILY

- We thank the **Funeral Dinner Committee** for their faithful service this past month. During a time when their leader was unavailable, they hosted an unusually large number of meals. We appreciate your faithfulness to this ministry.
- We sent **Harvey Chiles**, our Music Director, off to his new job as headmaster of the Noblesse International School in the Philippines with what is possibly the worst gospel song ever written, *Drop Kick Me Jesus*. We thank Harvey for his innovative work as our Music Director and Linda, his wife, for sharing so freely with us. Thank you to the **More Jesus Time kids** for their cards, the **Staff-Parish Relations Committee** for hosting the reception, and the country singers: **Randy McLain, Kevin Rader, Jeff Wills, Iris Uzzell, and Pastor Daryl**.
- **Thank you** to those who listed their Top 10 worship songs. Many of your selections have been included in the song book we are using at 8:15 a.m. this summer.
- Congratulations to David & Crystal Flynn on the birth of a daughter. **Mara Elise Flynn** was born on May 5 weighing 9lbs.6oz. May this new life bring much joy to their home! God bless you all.
- We lift up in prayer the family of **Brandon Ulrich**, friend of the Pruetzels; the family of **Chad Nicolet**, friend of Jason Mayer; the family of **Linda Reedy**, sister/sister-in-law of Paul & Angie Standefer; the family of **Wilma Schuetz**, special Brownie/Junior Scout Leader of Lois Mitchell; the family of **Joyce Roberts**, mother of Randy Roberts; the family of **Robert Fortado**, friend of Lois Mitchell & Ruth Bell; the family of **Lloyd Whitworth**, brother of Verda MacDonald; and the family of **Robert "Bob" Nappier**, brother-in-law of Tom & Trudy Lehnen. May God's comfort fill the emptiness.
- **Katie Murbarger** was on a mission trip in Zimbabwe, May 16-30. We pray that this experience will continue to influence her life and ministry for a long time.
- **Matt Herndon**, son of Jim & Jane Herndon, was recently named the Illinois Association of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation, "Middle School Teacher of the Year" for the State of Illinois for 2013-14 and the honor will allow him to forward his credentials for consideration for the national award. Congratulations Matt!

THANK YOU

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THANK YOU: Dear Friends, I write this on Thursday (5-22) afternoon at my desk at the Noblesse International School in the Philippines. What a month! I write to **thank you all** for your generous gifts as I left St. Paul. And, in particular, I will remember the rendition of *Drop Kick Me Jesus Thru the Goal Posts of Life* with Pastor D for the rest of my life.

It was a joy serving the Lord, working with Pastor D, and being on the staff of St. Paul. You will be with me in Spirit as I move along this next leg of the interesting journey of life.

Pray for me, as I do for you. I will up date you through Lois on the comings and goings here in the Philippines.

Blessings, Harvey Chiles



Sundays at St. Paul in **JUNE** 8:15 & 10:30 A.M. Services

The 8:15 a.m. worship service is held in the amphitheater in the park. Wear casual clothes and bring your lawn chair. Tailgate At Eight Fellowship with coffee, juice, and snacks is at 8 p.m. In case of rain, the service is held in the sanctuary. The 10:30 a.m. service is always held in the sanctuary. **“More Jesus Time” for Pre-school - 5th grade and Nursery is provided for the 10:30 a.m. service.**



The Gideons International

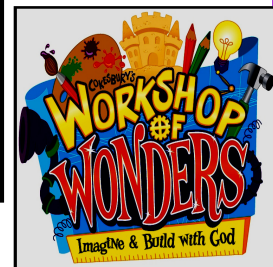
1 7th Sunday of Easter. Gideon Sunday. Communion Celebrated. The 8:15 service moves to the outdoor amphitheater! Gene Walls from the Gideons shares an update on their work of distributing Bibles throughout the world. A special offering is taken for the Gideons.



8 DAY OF PENTECOST: THE BIRTHDAY OF THE CHURCH. Birthday Sunday. We begin our summer series on the Sermons in Acts with the first sermon ever preached! It is the sermon that inspired the beginning of the church. Read Acts 2:14-41!



15 1st Sunday after Pentecost. Father's Day. CATCH-UP SUNDAY. Vacation Bible School Program during 10:30 a.m. service. At 8:15 a.m., we continue our summer series with Peter's sermon in Acts 3:11-26. Peter heals a man in the name of Jesus Christ. This sermon explains why Peter possesses this power; making it clear that power comes from Jesus. *Every Father present receives a special gift in celebration of their special day.*

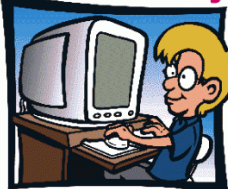


22 2nd Sunday after Pentecost. A special speaker leads our service today.

29 3rd Sunday after Pentecost. The vision Peter receives persuades him to abandon a strict understanding of faith. God grows several sizes; revealing that He is more wonderful and more powerful than Peter ever imagined. Read Acts 10:27-48.



Internet Safety



**Program Sponsored by the Nurture Ministry Team
June 5th, 10:30 a.m.**

**Presented by
Lt. Vouvich of the
Madison County
Sheriff's Office. We
hope you will come!
Please sign-up so we
know how many to
plan for.**



Nurses Notes for JUNE 2014 from Parish Nurse, Eileen!

“You have set all the borders of the earth: you have made summer and winter.”

Psalm 74:17

Summer arrives later this month, hurray! Whether you plan to have fun with friends at a church picnic, family outings, a vacation, or right in your own backyard, here are some helpful hints to help keep you and your family safe during the summer days.



Beware of those bugs! Ticks, mosquitoes, fleas- they are all around during the summer. Be careful and avoid heavily wooded or leafy areas, and high grass areas. Walk, bike or hike in the center of the trails. Wear long pants, socks, and hiking boots or tennis shoes when hiking. A tick is easier to spot on light colored clothing. I know that bug repellent with DEET is recommended, but there are also other natural choices. You could try some of the essential oils, such as lemon balm (citronella), lavender or rose geranium. Drops of these oils are added to certain liquid soaps. There are also some herbal insect repellents that can be found online or at health food stores, such as Buzz Away, California Baby, and Bite Blocker. I think I will try one this summer. Make sure to do a full body check after being outside, and also to check your pets, hiking gear and backpacks. The CDC recommends a 3 foot barrier of wood chips or gravel between your lawn and wooded areas to restrict tick migration.

Around The Yard: Prevent those pesky rodents from moving in! Seal up sources of food such as pet food containers, bird feeders and garbage cans. Elevate wood piles and garbage cans. Keep grass and shrubs trimmed. Do not allow children to play in areas that are soiled with pet or animal stool- keep the sandbox covered when not in use! Wear gloves and other safety gear while gardening or mowing the yard- my husband wears protective ear muffs when mowing to protect his ears from the excessive noise. He looked a bit silly at first, but now our neighbors are using them too! Remove items where standing water may collect: buckets, old tires, and toys. Mosquitoes love water and can breed in it within days.

Pool Safety: Drowning is the leading cause of injury death in children 1-4 years of age. Each day 10 people die from drowning and 2 of those are children under the age of 15. (CDC) Make sure everyone knows how to swim, use life jackets as needed (boating), and explain the safety rules, especially if you are a pool owner- such as no running at poolside and no diving. I have friends who have a paraplegic daughter who dove into a swimming pool at the shallow end and fractured her neck at C-7. She is paralyzed from the chest down. Be cautious with pool chemicals: my husband opened up a bucket containing chlorine tablets in a confined space outside where we have the pool pump and supplies. When he lifted the lid, a cloud of chlorine rushed out and he inhaled it. He could barely breathe, and fortunately I saw him from the kitchen window and was able to get to him, get him into fresh air, and then to the shower so the steam could open up his airways. He ended up on inhalers for a couple of weeks and was fortunate not to get a chemical pneumonia.

Hot Eats, Cool Treats: Be careful with food for BBQ's, picnics and vacations. Remember that any time, it is wise to buy your cold foods last at the store. Place raw meat and poultry in plastic bags away from other food. Always refrigerate cold items right away when arriving home. In extreme heat, you may want to place the food in a cooler for the ride home. Completely thaw meat before cooking on the grill so it cooks evenly, marinate meat in the refrigerator and not on the counter. Refrigerate leftovers promptly, and discard and food left out over two hours, and if the temperature is over 90 degrees discard after an hour.

When camping, a full cooler will maintain its cold temperatures longer than a partially filled cooler. If the cooler is just partially full, fill the remaining space with ice. Keep the cooler in a shady spot, or at least cover it with a towel. If fishing, scale gut and clean the fish immediately. Wrap both whole and cleaned fish in water tight plastic and store on ice. Keep 3-4 inches of ice in the bottom of the cooler. Cook the fish within one or two days or freeze.

Fun In The Sun: Wear a sunscreen with an SPF (sun protection factor) of 15 or greater. SPF is a measurement of the lotions ability to prevent UVB from damaging the skin. Here is how it works: “If it takes for your unprotected skin to start turning red, using an SPF 15 theoretically prevents reddening 15 times longer- or 5 hours.” (SKF) According to the Skin Cancer Foundation, anyone over the age of 6 months should wear a daily sunscreen. Those under 6 months have extremely sensitive skin and should not be exposed to the harmful rays of the sun. I will have more about sunscreen protection in the next newsletter.

Enjoy the summertime but play it safe! On these long, warm days of summer, rest in the cooling shade of the Lord's presence, and in the warmth of His love.

Blessings, Eileen

Sources: CDC, Skin Cancer Foundation, Food Safety- U.S.D.A.



June 01 Scroggins, Eric
 June 01 Helmkamp, Jansen
 June 02 Campbell, Sarah
 June 02 Wood, Eric
 June 03 Goss, Patsy
 June 03 Dawson, Sarah
 June 04 Roberts, Karen
 June 04 Birmingham, Jon
 June 04 Lair, Katie
 June 04 Scroggins, Jonathan
 June 05 Murbarger, Katie
 June 05 Sandbach, Jennifer
 June 06 Champlin, Ruth
 June 06 Duryea, Myrna
 June 06 Franklin, Don
 June 06 Bailey, Donna
 June 06 Cruthis, Scott
 June 07 Brueggeman, Joyce
 June 08 Huebner, Vi
 June 09 Burt, J.J. Jr.
 June 09 Bourne, Jimmy
 June 09 Gwaltney, Jacob
 June 09 Standefer, Tori
 June 10 Sandbach, Aubrey
 June 10 Virgin, Olivia
 June 11 Jensen, Lindsey
 June 11 Hart, Gary
 June 12 Murbarger, Diane

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

"Before you were born, I set you apart for a special work!"

June 12 Champa, Cheryl
 June 12 Fansler, Deb
 June 12 Bowman, Debbie
 June 12 Sullivan, Bill
 June 13 Roberts, Betty
 June 14 Schiber, Dave
 June 14 Herndon, Harper
 June 15 Sheppard, Ashley
 June 15 Betts, Autumn
 June 16 Liedtke, Trista
 June 17 Bourne, Brianne
 June 17 Spurgeon, Jenny
 June 18 Foss, Samantha
 June 18 Vore, Xavier
 June 18 Vore, Zoe
 June 19 Caldwell, Dustin
 June 19 Yates, Sydney
 June 20 Martin, Karen
 June 20 Tillery, Amie
 June 20 Redden, Annie
 June 20 White, Abigail
 June 21 Welch, Lois
 June 21 Bell, Lawson

June 22 Virgin, Ethan
 June 23 Graves, Wanda
 June 23 White, John
 June 25 Voorhees, Steve
 June 25 Standefer, Summer
 June 25 Clark, Caden
 June 27 McLain, Jamie
 June 27 Sandbach, Kaden
 June 28 Link, Deb
 June 29 Cisler, Marilyn
 June 30 Szegedy, Sharon
 June 30 Williams, Jeri
 June 30 Lair, William



JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

June 01 Redden, Darin Sr. & Chandra
 June 07 Myers, John & Laurie
 June 07 Burt, J.J. Jr. & Jackie Beth
 June 08 Huff, Joe & Sherry
 June 08 Eyster, Brian & Chris
 June 09 Inman, Terry & Sharon
 June 10 Huebner, Richard & Vi
 June 10 Boeshans, Cory & Jackie
 June 11 Huddleston, Rick & Jeannie
 June 11 Brueggeman, Randy & Joyce
 June 14 Natsch, Steve & Julie

June 15 Cheatham, Douglas & Eileen RN
 June 16 Gwaltney, Don Sr. & Kay
 June 17 Bentley, Jay III & Tracy
 June 20 Herndon, Neil & Jade
 June 22 Champa, Larry & Cheryl
 June 24 Ballard, Larry & Iola
 June 24 Lewis, Herrell & Bettie
 June 24 Hinkle, Bob Sr. & Evelyn
 June 25 Balzaine, Homer & Carleen
 June 26 Demond, Richard & Dell
 June 26 Toner, Mike & Teresa
 June 28 Toner, Matt & Kristen
 June 30 Hughes, Steve & Janet



New Church Directories are available from the church office!

Changes/Additions:

If you are going to move soon, give the church office advance notice of your new address.
 Also, remember to update us on your new phone number. Thank you!



 **Monthly Loose Change Project!**
(loose coins in offering plate)

June's Loose Change Project is the **Happy Bear Project** for our church. Members of the church make bears that are given to Alton Memorial Hospital. These are then distributed to children in pediatrics and/or coming through the emergency room in time of crisis. The bears provide security and comfort for the children. May God bless and multiply your gifts!

THE UNITED METHODIST VILLAGE SPONSORS THEIR 1ST ANNUAL GOLF CHALLENGE!

Friday, July 18th Starts at Noon
Rolling Hills Golf Course
5801 Pierce Lane, Godfrey, IL
Sign-up information on bulletin board in the Education Wing hallway!

JUNE Ushers (10:30):

June 1: Diane Murbarger

June 8: Anita Dawson, Andrew & Jen Garrison

→ **USHERS NEEDED!** Please Call the Head Usher if you will help!

JUNE Head Usher:

TRACY FRANKS

Average Attendance for MAY 2014

Early Service	59
Late Service	80
Sunday School	46
Visitors	8

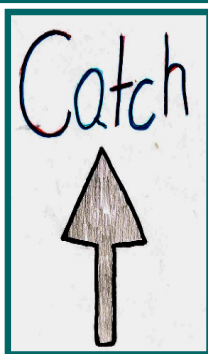


DEADLINE FOR JULY 2014 STEEPLE, Fri., JUNE 20th!

MAY Stewardship

Budget Offering:	through 5/31/2014	\$19465.00
Designated Giving:	through 5/31/2014	\$1307.50
	Capital Improvements	240.00
	Loose Change	121.50
	Flowers	101.00
	Hickerson Scholarship	120.00
	Memorials	275.00
	Gas & Electricity	100.00
	Upper Room	4.00
	Sale of Shed/Metal	121.00
	Funeral Dinners	175.00
	VBS	20.00
	Youth	20.00
	Steeple Postage	10.00
Easter Offering		70.00
World Communion		20.00
Transfer from Reserve		1431.26
Total:		\$22293.76





Sunday, June 15th is Catch-Up Sunday. We invite you to join your friends in giving a special financial gift to help us catch up on our outstanding bills. (Currently, we are \$11,820 behind in payment of our obligations.) You will soon receive a letter with a special envelope for your Catch-Up Sunday offering. The envelope may be placed in any offering on a Sunday or mailed to the Church Office.

We invite you to join us on June 15th for worship outdoors under the trees at 8:15 a.m. or at 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary for the Vacation Bible School program. Since it is Father's Day, we will have a special gift to honor the fathers who are present.

We know the primary reason for our financial shortfall. We had to cancel our worship services on the first Sundays of January, February, and March. None of our longtime members could remember this ever happening before at St. Paul. Beyond this, the harsh winter has hit our general budget hard. At the end of April, we had already spent 51% of the amount budgeted for utilities during 2014. With the increased use of our aging heating system, we had to replace two motors. Already, we have spent over \$2,000 on repairs during the heating season. Lastly, when our squirrel catching techniques failed, we had to call Critter Control to evict the squirrels that took up residence in our attic this winter. We were alerted to their presence when they chewed through the fire alarm wire and tripped a false alarm. At this moment, we have spent \$629 with Critter Control and all the critters are not yet caught! We had not budgeted for squirrel removal or repair of the fire alarm system!

We are not complaining because God has blessed us with a beautiful building in which to worship Him. God has entrusted us with a great ministry with which to praise Him. We are thankful for the privilege of being the church in Rosewood Heights. Our goal in this newsletter note is to be transparent, sharing information that you as a supporter of our ministry need to know.

What can you personally do to help meet our challenge?

We ask you to begin with prayer. Pray not only that we might meet this financial challenge, but pray for us as we search for a new Music Director. We are thankful for the strong, Christian musicians who in the past have added so much to our worship services. Pray that God would lead us to the right person to take our music program to the next level.

Pray that we might continue to be a strong witness for Christ in our region; especially as we continue our participation in the yearlong How to Reach Younger Adults process.

Then...if you are behind in your planned giving, prayerfully think of what it will take to become current now; ...if you are up-to-date or even ahead on your giving, prayerfully consider making another contribution now; and

...if you chose not to indicate your planned giving, prayerfully consider contributing now—whether or not you have reached your intended giving level; and

...if you have not yet given financial support to the church this year, prayerfully consider a gift now to help us through these hard times; and

...if you are unable to give an offering at this time, we ask you to cover us with prayer and to strengthen us by your active participation in worship this Sunday and every Sunday.

Billy Graham said: **"God has given us two hands—one to receive with and the other to give with. We are not wells made for hoarding; we are channels made for sharing."** Your Catch-Up Sunday offering on June 15 will enable us to be a wide channel for sharing the gospel in our region. Finance Committee of St. Paul



Pursuant to 430 ILCS 66/65

Illinois recently enacted a concealed carry law for handguns. Unless churches specifically exempt themselves, concealed carry handguns are permitted on church property. Please be advised that the Church Council meeting on **Thursday, May 15** declared that St. Paul United Methodist Church is a gun free zone. This motion was passed upon the recommendation of the Board of Trustees. As in the past, our law enforcement personnel and other individuals who openly carry guns in the performance of their duties are welcomed at our worship services and other events.



WORSHIP UNDER THE TREES ON SUNDAYS IN THE CHURCH AMPHITHEATER 8:15 a.m.

JUNE 1st-SEPTEMBER 14th
Pastor Daryl will be preaching a series on the sermons in the **Book of Acts**

TAILGATE FELLOWSHIP AT 8 A.M.

(In case of rain, service is held in the sanctuary! 10:30 a.m. service is held, as usual, in the sanctuary)



We return this year with **TAILGATE AT EIGHT** for the outdoor service! We invite you to come just a little early, at 8 a.m., and receive a free cup of coffee, tea, or juice and a snack at the serving center. And you will also time to greet each other before the service begins! Rain brings it all inside... We need volunteers to help!

Happy 99th Birthday!
On Sat., June 21st at Villa Rose there will be a **Birthday Reception for Lois Welch!**
It is from 10 a.m. - Noon.



THE GIDEONS INTERNATIONAL

GIDEON SUNDAY, JUNE 1st 8:15 & 10:30 A.M.

St. Paul has been a faithful supporter of the Gideons. On Gideon Sunday, we receive an update of this wonderful ministry. A special offering will be received for the Gideons. Our contributions fund the distribution of Bibles throughout the world. Guest speaker is Gene Walls, former member at St. Paul



CAMPING...CAMPING... CAMPING

Illinois Great Rivers Conference Church Camps offer activities like caving, rock-climbing, horseback riding, canoeing, rappelling, hiking, swimming, rock wall climbing, sailing, archery, fishing, mountain bike riding, for a wide variety of interests from music to theater to missions to worship leadership at six different sites. Some camps are held in air conditioned dorm style rooms while others feature tree houses and tents. At some camps you go to camp with your grandparents while at others you stay up late every night! Camps are available for all ages. Information flyers are available on top of the mailboxes in the educational wing hallway. See Kevin Rader or Pastor Daryl for more information.

Financial help is available for those who need it through the Herman Camping Fund!

If you could "un-invent" something what would it be and why?



LIVING A HEALTHY LIFE

The Alton Memorial Hospital Center for Senior Renewal, in cooperation with Oasis, will be offering a six-week series entitled "Living a Healthy Life." The series will be on **six consecutive Tuesdays, starting June 10, from 2-4:30 p.m. in the Center for Senior Renewal, located on the second floor of the AMH Olin Wing.** The class includes a book and relaxation CD to keep. Light refreshments will be served. To register for this **free** six-week class and for additional information, please call **800-392-0936**.

The class helps participants set healthy goals, make action plans, manage pain, understand medication, and embrace making healthy food and exercise choices. Developed by Stanford University's Patient Education Research Center, this self-management course is for those with such chronic conditions as heart disease, arthritis, diabetes, asthma, bronchitis, emphysema or others.

Vacation Bible School

SAVE THE DATES

June 9 - 13 (program June 15)

9:30 a.m. - Noon

Needed:

- **6-12 Class Leaders** - late high school thru adults
- **6-12 Class Assistants** - high school or college students, 7th & 8th grade students

Station Leaders:

- Science Lab - Dave Schiber
- P.E. - Kyle Norris
- Music - Debbie Bacus
- Kitchen - Counting on my "dependables"
- Crafts - Maggie Funke, Ryan Tite, & Marie Brown
- Story - Spencer & Oliver Bacus
- **Building Station - need someone!**
- **Movie - need someone!**

Security - Scott Gwaltney

Registration & Daily Assistant - Rita White

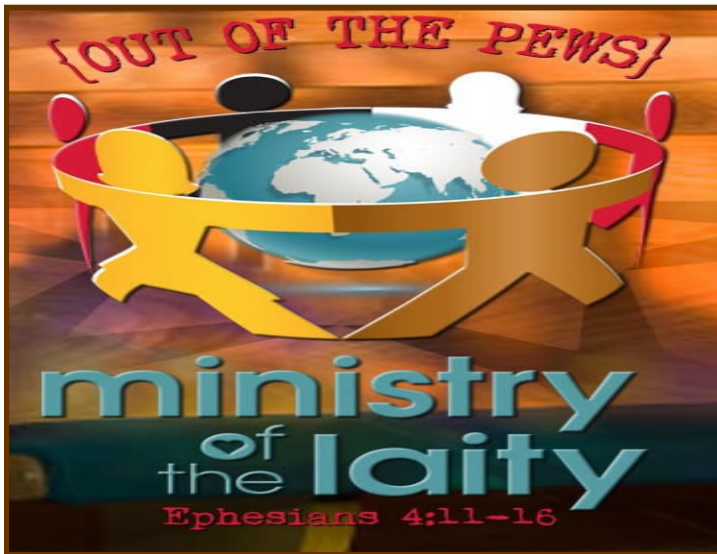
If you will help with VBS in any of these areas or in any way, please talk to Jamie Gwaltney or give her a call ASAP at **692-0898**.

We pray that it will be another fun and inspiring year! This year's theme is:



Check the bulletin board in the Education wing hallway. We have repeated the set-up from last year where you can take the post-it note of what you will bring, write your name on the board under what you are bringing, and cross it off when you bring it to church.

Thank you in advance!!!



2014 Annual Conference

June 4th-7th

Peoria Civic Center

Pastor Daryl and JoAnn Hill will be our representatives to Annual Conference. In case of a pastoral emergency, Pastor Daryl will return to attend to your needs.

In an emergency, please call the Church Office at 259-5210, Pastor Daryl at 980-0232, or Connie Hickerson at 799-9146.



JUNE - Church of Rock (COR) Youth News

Psalm 136:26 - "Give thanks to the God of heaven, for His steadfast love endures forever."



Youth meet every Sunday evening @6:30 p.m.
at the Bethalto UMC Youth House!

Contact Kevin Rader at (618) 303-0044 for more info!



CRAVE – Bible Study

Sundays – 9:15 a.m.
upstairs CRAVE Room

CRAVE – Activities

1st Sunday of each month –
Breakfast 9:15 a.m.
3rd Sunday of each month –
Lunch 11:30 a.m.

*open hearts
open minds
open doors*



ST PAUL
united methodist church

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/171020936311281/>

Who are we?

We are young adults with a passion for living, a passion for learning, and a passion for loving Christ! We *CRAVE* knowledge that helps us live more like Christ, we *CRAVE* a life filled with Christ's love, and we *CRAVE* fellowship with others that *CRAVE* the same. **Do you feel like something is missing from your life?** We invite you to join us as we feed the craving to learn more and build a stronger relationship with Christ! Young adults – 18 yrs old to 30s.

ATTENTION 2014 High School Graduates!!

We want you to join us at 9:15 a.m. each Sunday for fellowship (and sometimes food)! For additional information on any and all activities or to learn more about CRAVE, please contact Betsy Blacklock at 259-3858 or email betsy.healingimages@yahoo.com



**We are pleased to welcome
the Youth Choir from the
FUMC of Leavenworth, KS
in concert on Tues., June
3rd at 7:00 p.m. Come hear
them present, "No Doubt."**



We say goodbye to our dear friend...

Paul M. "Mike" Bell, 64, passed away at 6:48 a.m. on Thursday, May 15, 2014, in the emergency room at Alton Memorial Hospital. He was born on Oct. 8, 1949, in Alton, IL., the son of Richard "Dick" & Patricia (Worcester) Bell.

He married the former Lisa Williams on June 25, 1974, in Edwardsville, IL., and she survives. Other survivors include one daughter and son-in-law, Heather and Brock Hendricks of Alton; one son and daughter-in-law, Corey and Melissa Bell of Godfrey; six grandchildren, Jaxson Hendricks, Carter Hendricks, Brody Hendricks, Jayden Bell, Kamryn Bell, Lawson Bell; and one sister, Mary Ann Bell of Wood River.

He was formerly employed at Worcester & Bell Construction Company in Wood River. He was a commander for the Wood River American Legion Post 204. He was a paid on call fireman for the City of Wood River for 25 years. He was also on the arson squad, where he received an award for solving an arson. He was a member of St. Paul United Methodist Church in Rosewood Heights. He was a veteran of the United States Navy where he served from 1969-1973. He was a former member of the Wood River Rotary. He loved his grandkids dearly and was the best pawpaw to them.

Burial will include full military rites by the Ritual Team of VFW Post 1308 of Alton.

Here is a portion of my sermon at the Funeral Service for Mike Bell:

*If you don't carry your own cross as if to your own execution as you follow Me, you can't be part of My movement. Just imagine that you want to build a tower. Wouldn't you first sit down and estimate the cost to be sure you have enough to finish what you start? If you lay the foundation but then can't afford to finish the tower, everyone will mock you: "Look at that guy who started something that he couldn't finish!" In the same way, if you want to be My disciple, it will cost you everything. Don't underestimate that cost! **Luke 14:27-30, 33 The Voice***

Mike Bell spent his life making careful calculations. You didn't stay in construction business long if you bid a job so high that you didn't get it or so low that you lost money when your bid was accepted. A large crowd is following Jesus. He knows that most of them would fade away if they knew the true cost of being his disciple. So Jesus challenges them to count the cost. As a carpenter, Jesus understood that only a foolish person would start building without calculating the total cost. Otherwise, you would have to halt construction partway through the project. No carpenter wanted to be the object of ridicule with people saying: **Look at that stupid guy who started building and couldn't finish.**

JESUS WAS NOT TALKING ABOUT BUILDING TOWERS AT ALL. HE WAS TALKING ABOUT BUILDING LIVES. Jesus wanted his followers to know the cost of following him. This was no casual decision, but rather one that required careful calculation of the cost. Jesus was clear that not only was there a cross for him, but also for you and me. When Mike Bell became a member at St. Paul, he understood that he wasn't joining a social club but rather Christ's Body. He was choosing to place Christ first in his life. And, that is always dangerous because Christ leads you down paths that you otherwise would not walk.

Heather and Corey were little when Christ called Mike & Lisa to lead the Youth Group at St. Paul. Although Mike & Lisa's devotion to this ministry did not provide a direct benefit to their children, it bore witness to them that to be a baptized member of Christ's Body, the Church, means to be crucified to self and to serve others in Christ's name.

JESUS WANTS US TO BE AWARE THAT LIFE IS FILLED WITH CHOICES. CHOICES THAT CALL US TO MAKE PRAYERFUL, CAREFUL CALCULATIONS SO WE MIGHT CHOOSE WISELY. HOWEVER, JESUS KNEW THAT IMPULSIVENESS WAS NOT THE BIGGEST BARRIER MOST PEOPLE FACE. THE BIGGEST BARRIER IS INACTION. When Mike Bell saw a person preparing to leap off the Chain of Rocks Bridge, he acted deliberately and swiftly. He turned on the emergency lights on his vehicle and sped to the man's side. He pulled the man down and sat upon him until help arrived. With Mike sitting on him the man wasn't going anywhere. When the man declared that he was such a bad person that his little girl didn't need him in her life, Mike's response was simple and direct: "Every girl needs her daddy." Mike acted because he instinctively knew that God had placed him in a position for such a time as this.

WHILE FOLLOWING JESUS REQUIRES SACRIFICE, IT ALSO COMES WITH GREAT BENEFITS. INDEED, WE MIGHT SAY THE BENEFITS ARE OUT OF THIS WORLD. Those of us who are crucified with Christ are also raised to new life with him. Because Jesus lives, we live also. Let us find comfort today in the knowledge that Mike decided a long time ago to place his life in the loving embrace of Jesus Christ. Nothing above this earth, on this earth or below this earth may pry his life from this loving embrace. Mike is where he has always been: with Jesus.

Please pray for Mike's wife, Lisa, his son, Corey, and daughter, Heather, and all his grandchildren who miss him so very much. Pastor Daryl



We say goodbye to our dear friend...

Michael Raymond Wood, 56, of East Alton passed away Saturday, May 17, 2014, at Alton Memorial Hospital. He was born Dec. 11, 1957, to Jessie and Martha Wood.

He married Kimberly Tharp June 6, 1992, in Greenfield, IL. He was a devoted husband and wonderful loving father of his two children who miss him greatly. He enjoyed spending time with his family and playing slot machines at the casino and watching old westerns and TV shows. He loved working with the elderly at University Nursing & Rehabilitation where he was employed as Maintenance Supervisor. He was a member of St. Paul United Methodist Church in Rosewood Heights.

He is survived by his wife, Kimberly Wood; son, Tony Wood, daughter, Emma Wood; sisters, Jeana (Roger) Proffitt and Melissa (Danny) Spiker; brother, Chris (Melanie) Wood; mother-in-law, Emma Harper; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and brother, John Wood.

In part, I offered these words of comfort at Mike Wood's service. **2 Corinthians 5 (New Living Translation) New Bodies**

¹ For we know that when this earthly tent we live in is taken down (that is, when we die and leave this earthly body), we will have a house in heaven, an eternal body made for us by God himself and not by human hands. ² We grow weary in our present bodies, and we long to put on our heavenly bodies like new clothing. ³ For we will put on heavenly bodies; we will not be spirits without bodies. ⁴ While we live in these earthly bodies, we groan and sigh, but it's not that we want to die and get rid of these bodies that clothe us. Rather, we want to put on our new bodies so that these dying bodies will be swallowed up by life. ⁵ God himself has prepared us for this, and as a guarantee he has given us his Holy Spirit.

Since California Chrome has won two legs of the Triple Crown, there are some who may believe that he is a sure bet to win the Belmont: the last race. Those who follow horse racing know that the Belmont is the longest race that any thoroughbred will ever run: 1 ½ miles. That alone is a challenge.

More than this, California Chrome will be running against fresh horses that did not run in the Derby or the Preakness. And, finally there is some question whether the racing commission will allow the horse to run using nasal strips which help him to breathe. In the past, they have not permitted this.

California Chrome isn't a sure bet to be the first Triple Crown winner since 1978. The odds are that he will fail in his quest. The simple truth is that there are few sure bets in life.

We who are gathered here today know that all too well. Without any warning, death snatched Mike Wood from us. Mike was watching Tony graduate from High School on Friday night and by the next day, Saturday, he was gone.

I could spend the next few minutes complaining about how terrible what has happened is, how cheated Mike's family and friends feel, and how unfair life is. All this is true. If I did this it would be a stark contrast with the spirit with which Mike lived his life.

While Mike didn't get to choose when he would die, he did choose how he would live until he died. Kimberly, Emma, and Tony you know how much he loved you because he said it and he showed it every day. For his brother, sisters, mother-in-law, nieces, and nephews, there is no doubt how much Mike cared for them.

As the Maintenance Supervisor at University Nursing & Rehabilitation, Mike understood that even the small things he did made a big difference for the comfort of the residents. He went the second mile to ensure that their home was safe.

The stark truth is that our disobedience of God has impacted not only our relationship with Him, but God's relationship with all creation. We live in a Fallen world filled with disease, natural disasters, and death. God didn't intend for these things to be part of our world.

What Adam and death destroyed, Jesus and the Resurrection have restored. Now, even though we die, we shall live. We shall be raised to new life in a place where things like suffering, tears, and pain are gone. What remains is a life lived singing God's praises forever and ever.

Paul doesn't understand when some Christians accept the Resurrection of Jesus as real, but doubt the certainty of their own resurrection. In 1 Corinthians 15, Paul says:

And why do you think I keep risking my neck in this dangerous work? I look death in the face practically every day I live. Do you think I'd do this if I wasn't convinced of your resurrection and mine as guaranteed by the resurrected Messiah Jesus? Do you think I was just trying to act heroic when I fought the wild beasts at Ephesus, hoping it wouldn't be the end of me? Not on your life! It's resurrection, resurrection, always resurrection, that undergirds what I do and say, the way I live.

Paul believes that if the Resurrection were not real, the sacrifices he is making to tell others about Jesus...the risk he takes every day, would rightly be seen as crazy. But Paul is convinced that betting on the Resurrection is a sure thing. Because we are counting on Jesus.

Mike was specific about the tone he wanted for this celebration. He wanted it to be celebratory because Mike was convinced that he had bet upon a sure thing: Jesus Christ and His Resurrection. And, because He lives, we live also.

In the picture on the casket, the lone goose flies off leaving the three behind. Our parting is only for a little while. Soon we shall rejoin Mike because we, too, have bet upon a sure thing: the resurrection of Jesus. Meanwhile, I am convinced the best way to honor Mike is to pay his life forward. Befriend an older adult, help a person in need with no expectation of payment in return, tell your family you love them everyday. If we do this, we will have learned the lessons he taught us. We will have done well.

Please pray for Kimberly, Emma, Tony Wood, and Emma Harper. Pastor Daryl



We say goodbye to our dear friends...



James "Audie" Bivens, 89, passed away Thursday, December 9, 2010, at Cypress Grove Rehabilitation Center, Newburgh, IN. He was born November 2, 1921, in Roxanna, IL.

Audie was a member of St. Paul United Methodist Church in Rosewood Heights, IL. He was a Navy veteran, serving in World War II. Audie retired from Clark Oil in Hartford, IL. He was a loving husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather.

He is survived by his wife of 68 years, Mary Madelyn (Green) Bivens; son, James Bivens and wife, Linda; son, Dale Bivens and wife, Kathy; grandchildren, Beth and Ann Bivens, Tom Bivens and wife, Susan; Jessie Decort and husband, Ed; Steve Bivens; Justin Bivens and wife, Stephanie; and great-granddaughter, Adelaide Decort.

Mary "Madelyn" Bivens, 89, passed away Saturday, Jan. 11, 2014, at Gold Living Center in Woodlands, IN. She was born March 10, 1924, in Harford, IL.

Madelyn was an original member of St. Paul United Methodist Church in Rosewood Heights, IL. She retired from First National Bank in Alton, IL. She was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother.

Madelyn was preceded in death by her husband of 68 years, Audie Bivens. She is survived by son, James Bivens and wife, Linda; son, Dale Bivens and wife, Kathy; grandchildren, Beth Bivens, Ann Bivens and husband, Jason Endicott, Tom Bivens and wife, Susan, Jessie Decort and husband, Ed, Steve Bivens, Justin Bivens; great-granddaughters, Adelaide Decort, Nedalia Bivens; and great-grandson, Drew Decort.

Here is an excerpt of what I shared at the Memorial Service for Audie & Madelyn Bivens. More moving than my words was the testimony of their grandchildren who said their grandparent's marriage had served as an example for their own marriages.

"Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed. If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble. Likewise, two people lying close together can keep each other warm. But how can one be warm alone? A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken."

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

It seems right to celebrate Audie & Madelyn's lives together, because that is how I think of them. Together. Although I came into their lives later on, I sensed that they had always been a team: in raising their sons, spoiling their grandchildren and great grandchildren. At church they were a team, attending Sunday School and worship together.

They were better together than alone. They understood this and expressed thanks that they had each other; even when their physical ailments prevented them from doing all that they once had done for each other.

I want to end this brief meditation by lifting up verse 12: **Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken.** Once when I was visiting my grandparents on their farm, it was raining and I was bored. For some reason, my grandfather tied three strands of twine on the back of a chair and taught me how to braid them together into a rope. When I finished, I remember how much stronger that rope was than the individual strands.

The third strand in Audie & Madelyn's relationship was God. God was their third partner in their marriage. The One to who they prayed, the One who shared in their moments of joy and comforted them during their times of sorrow. The One who was always with them. As strong as Audie & Madelyn's bond was, God made it stronger still.

Please pray that God, the third cord, might comfort the Bivens family during their time of mourning.

Pastor Daryl